

Senate Resolution No. 51

Introduced by Senators Leno and Kehoe

Relative to sexual orientation discrimination.

WHEREAS, Some United States-based religious leaders have been fomenting fear and discrimination against the minority lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in Uganda; and

WHEREAS, These same religious leaders have supported policies and programs that have prevented the LGBT community from having access to lifesaving HIV/AIDS information and services; and

WHEREAS, The links between some United States-based religious groups and the antigay bill, known as the Bahati Private Member's Bill, pending before the Ugandan parliament have been well documented; and

WHEREAS, United States-funded HIV policy and programs discriminate against LGBT Ugandans who are excluded from the Ugandan government's HIV strategy, often through faith-based organizations in Uganda; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing movement, supported and funded by some United States-based religious groups, to further criminalize homosexuality globally and make it an offense to provide services and support to LGBT people, their families, and supporters; and

WHEREAS, The Right Reverend Christopher Senyonjo, the retired Anglican Bishop of West Buganda, has been touring California, the United States, and Europe to educate and bring attention to the draconian impact of a recent wave of religious-based homophobia in Uganda; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, That the Senate deplors and condemns all acts of violence, in both word and in action, that use the government as an instrument of discrimination, persecution, and legislating against the LGBT community and its supporters; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls upon all faith-based organizations in California to work for equal rights in the world and not to abuse their

federal Section 501(c)(3) charitable status to engage in undue lobbying at the United Nations or to create policies in other countries that may discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls upon the United States Department of State to increase efforts to encourage the decriminalization of homosexuality in every country and to use all means possible to increase the number of countries supporting decriminalization, including, but not limited to, the United Nations, trade and diplomatic relationships, and the implementation of international treaties and declarations on human rights; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate encourages a more careful review of all United States funding and resources given to faith-based organizations in foreign countries, ensuring that they provide services to women, minorities, and LGBT people relating to health, education, and other services that promote and respect human rights treaties and values; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate calls upon the United States Department of State to censure American citizens and organizations who contravene American foreign policy by demonstrated exportation of fear and misinformation to other countries that cause demonstrated hardship, persecution, or violation of human rights for minority populations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Senate commends the work and ministry of Right Reverend Christopher Senyonjo in his attempts to create an inclusive church and society in Uganda that is free from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, and to the United States Secretary of State.

Senate Resolution No. 51 read and adopted by the Senate August 30, 2010.

Attest: _____
Secretary of the Senate